

socially and economically backward classes, including the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Minorities in different part of the country (India);

(b) if so, what steps were taken by Government to highlight such maladies in the conference; and

(c) how far and in what terms the Indian view was accommodated in the declaration adopted at the conference?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH):

(a) and (b) The UN General Assembly had decided *vide* its resolution 52/111 of December 1997, that the theme of the Third World Conference, held in Durban from August 30th—September 8th, 2001, should be Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance. Discrimination based on grounds unrelated to this theme, *e.g.* discrimination based on social and economic backwardness, was not on the agenda of the Durban Conference.

(c) India's consistent and principled view has been that racism is an affront to human dignity and anathema to the values enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and needs to be rejected unequivocally. Every effort should be made to ensure faithful implementation of the internationally accepted obligation to prevent and eliminate racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, reflected in the Declaration and Programme of Action adopted at the Durban World Conference.

Suspension of Samjhauta Express

†1277. **SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK:** Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Samjhauta Express running between India and Pakistan has become a main source of smuggling and whether Government proposed to suspend Samjhauta Express on experimental basis to check the smuggling to a greater extent; and

(b) if so, till when and if not, the reasons therefor and the manner by which Government would check the smuggling taking places through this way?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH):

(a) and (b) Presently, there is no proposal for suspension of Samjhauta Express between India and Pakistan.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

To curb the smuggling activities through Samjhauta Express, Government have taken several steps including take over of the immigration at Attari Railway Station by the Bureau of Immigration, dispensing with the services of the coolies at the Attari Railway Station, reduction of duty free allowance of Indians and Pakistanis coming from Pakistan by land route, limiting the baggage to be carried by the passengers to facilitate 100% manual check of the baggage by the security agencies etc. These measures have proved to be effective.

Misuse of diplomatic passports

1278. PROF. A. LAKSHMISAGAR:

SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there have been instances of misuse of the diplomatic passport issued by Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what action has been taken by Government for contravention of the rules by the erring persons?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Extradition of Plane Hijackers

1279. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have once again taken up with the Pakistan Government the issue of extradition of five hijackers and their accomplices of Indian Airlines plane from Kathmandu in December, 1999; and

(b) if so, Pakistan Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH):

(a) and (b) Government have, on several occasions, reminded Pakistan that as a signatory to various International Conventions against Terrorism, as also the Simla Agreement and the Lahore Declaration, Pakistan has an obligation to take into custody the hijackers of IC-814 who are believed to be in Pakistan and to extradite them to India. The matter was also raised during the Summi: